Minnie P. Lindsay

A Federal Woman in the Lone Star State

The U.S. Census Bureau has always been ahead of the curve when it comes to employing women. Ever since 1880, when it started using professional enumerators rather than U.S. marshals, the Census Office has employed women in that role. With the advent of the Hollerith tabulating machine in 1890, women moved into the role of keypunchers. By 1909, 10 years before the 19th amendment granted national women's suffrage, over 50 percent of the Census Bureau's 624 permanent employees were women. As women proved themselves as capable as the men, and with the increasing number of women in the workforce, it became harder for the Census Bureau to justify assigning all supervisory positions to men. By 1920, the Census Bureau would once again push forward appointing the first five female supervisors, as well as the first three female expert chiefs of division.



Photo courtesy of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Alumni Book

		(J. Dec)	134	ec. Luca, a se) A
		N. and that May 20, best Known with more line	ng on the security of account	800. No selvera well. Collector BCDS 5	INCE
ONCE DOL No. 107 New Y. DIVERNER	Ma. S., 14, 187 and 20 as	Members of Femilies who has been selected as the selected at the period of	NAME AND ADDRESS OF TAXABLE PARTY.	Rec, was te attaurest.	
EDULE L.—Ichabitants in Becer	or to	/ in the Co	unity of The	State of Z	311
	erated by me		day of June, 1	SSII.	7,0,0
	**************************************			n 2 9 horse	
-	Lac				Anne
	1.42	1	TOTAL	Steady Land	
1 1			1138	× .	
Temperature	100	-	100	THE THE	i Till
	talayana j	1	Street .	1	in This
100	133		1177		
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	113		9 2000	1111	
1468 Truston Later Ve 1416	Connection	275.72, 142		ha le	Le
Giffy milke 15 72	Secount	cont -		11/20	202
55 69 Milliagning box 7 55	- P X	23cm=3	/	14 Pines mis	
	Bose .	Mice Kand		18 Files Mis	Allen
matter hat 7	Bullet			There Byen	Street .
50.70 Ketty De 145777 17	1.6	muis lade -	180011	mu 86	AC.
- 1 labore 1 179 11	troughts !			To an 3 le	Mes
Just 3 21209	28.20			1100 66	There
There of the 177 16	Source	At School	Tarah III	Top an Trees	Vicen
This was Mill 1977 le	Courter !	Ar School		1200 Ale	
	Countries .			No. 1 Section 1995	W.M.
77 / martin Brien 9 17 102	mps 1	Hometayle		Ma Ha	
- 1 Main 217-9 6	Buchte	7		Trees Me	Ma
- Marin 17 200	Mught			Type He	Min
Man hand 37 1 20	to at	St. Jahrol		This He	Ma
Part February	Secondon.	H. Jakarl		Trees less	W. F. Law.
Cartie d'actions Son Pet	determine	House Survey		#1 /2/cm -	Ye.
777 Dilliamglanis Ila 15	wo 1	be block -		the se	ele-
Jan. 1972 20	Wife 1	Heresterling		Treas Al	1
- Milse 117 3	Kraghta .			The Ala	Telan.
	-				
79 23 Regrame William TV 2055	mile 1	Homest rating		Va Va	Va.
Historic o		ds are maintaine		by la la	Va.
the Na		es and Records		1 70 20	Va
2	not the	U.S. Census Bur	eau.	945 8/a	The Street
Visit http://ww	w.archives.c	ov for more info	rmation about		Mar
av av	ailable recon	ds like the one s	hown here.	2000	Zenen
1- May 17 /24	100	Harring	1	The Ho	Four
Cash Al Sines	Zer Co	Carpbondi U	-/	France Va	231
Co 70 miles But St Sign	1	con in the		The Dec	nies
	- 6	House again		Type Man	Ala
2 Anna M. F.S.	*		Towns No.	144 144	W. S. P. Car.
		man or managed or and passed, reduced			1.00

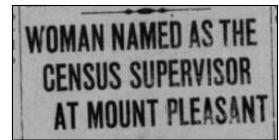
Pounders Family 1880 Census

One of the first female supervisors of enumerators in 1920 was Minnie P. Lindsay, of the first Texas district. Born April 26, 1873, in Titus County, TX, to Samuel P. Pounders and Claudia Fairer, Minnie was the oldest of their five surviving daughters. Samuel Pounders had started out as a farmer in Alabama, but by the time of Minnie's birth, he was a successful lawyer. He and his wife ensured that all of their daughters received higher education and work experience. Around 1904, Minnie married Robert Francis Lindsay, a Mount Pleasant banker. They had no children and remained married until his death in 1956.

In 1920, Minnie became one the first five women appointed as the census supervisor over a team of enumerators. The positions usually went to people with strong local ties, both

personally and politically. Like the other four women,

Minnie had prior work and management experience—she had been a teacher, an insurance salesperson, and a soliciting agent for the railroad. Furthermore, her family was politically connected in Titus County, TX. Her husband, Robert, was a banker and her father was a lawyer and bank director, as was her brother-in-law, Milton Burford. Perhaps most importantly,



The Eagle (Bryan, TX); 10 Dec 1919

another one of her brothers-in-law, C. L. Duncan, served two terms as Mayor of Mount Pleasant. Add this to her knowledge of the area and Minnie perfectly fit the mold of a 1920 Census supervisor.







The Houston Post (Houston, TX) 20 Feb 1922

The most important part of the supervisor's job is to ensure that enumerators cover every dwelling in the district without duplication. In December 1919, Minnie and her assistant, C. B. Fullerton, set out across their district to map it and meet with the enumerators. Immediately, Minnie encountered trouble. Census Day was a few short weeks away, on January 1, and not only were there not enough enumerators, but bad weather hampered their mapping. Despite a rough start, by January 20, Minnie had completed her second tour of the district and was guiding her enumerators through the return process for the census schedules and planning how to reach any uncounted people. By January 29, she told newspapers she felt that her enumerators completed the work "splendidly." Her team, which counted 18,128 people in Titus County, finished with only a few days extension required.

Minnie Lindsay was not only interested in being a successful woman herself, she also invested her time ensuring all women had the same opportunities. As early as 1904, Minnie volunteered in the Texas State Federation of Women's Clubs (TFWC), which began as a literary

club in 1897 and soon moved into activism. Minnie worked

her way through the organization, becoming president twice, once in 1922–1923 and once in 1929–1931. Her tenure saw improvements to Texas highway laws, development of a children's hospital, and the building of a new TFWC headquarters in Austin called "The Mansion." Minnie also used her influence with the TFWC to support minority women. Not only did she help establish an African-American girls' school, but also worked closely with the Texas Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. In addition to her extensive work with the TFWC, Minnie supported the Red Cross, the Delta Kappa Gamma, a women's professional organization, and the Order of the Eastern Star, a mixed gender Masonic society.



Photo Courtesy of the Austin Public Library

TFWC members in front of their headquarters, "The Mansion," in Austin, TX, circa 1920s–1930s. Minnie is in the top row, fourth from the right.

OMNO		on trease		X	160	-32	Air 3	-	#/-	Hea	AE OF PROGRESSION PLA			ع هند		easaur	WAR	or critical			2
2/1	-	Ur motti	TOTAL YOURS	TOTAL PARTY	Times.	- Section	DATE OF	aracon;	MICEST		- Discourse			THE PERSON.	er. spires	, 1600 279	1.7		ITERATIONS.	MERKING.	-
HO.	Jed.	-	L. 1901, was in the land	14	11	T	· pr c	1 B	12/12							-	11.	11.00	*	2	-
HE.	屋屋	-		- Charlenge	111		1 19.15	1 . 1	2 1	L			POR			ma.	19	'morney	"LEGISTAL		분
Ye			antinament ser	-	1.5	4 3	1 222 1	n 31 123	14 看	24			e-inten.	Miles began.	Residen.	. Bearings.	1				
		bak.	016.4	as some		1 4			7	- 12	NR arranto.	0.11	0.0		Ga Alasen		71.64	nen.		-	-
	1.40	40.00						-						**************		-		Jahaman	On	140	-1
1	1118		grant !	Suigh							cords are ma					1275	74	mana		-	7
14		-	ella andre	Lan			the	Natio	mal A	re	hives and Re	ecords	Admir	nistrati	on.	-	720	PARK.			٦,
	134 177	,čass.	- Pales	tool a	4				no		ne U.S. Cens	no Bur	agu.			-	744	lateral n	and labour	70	-
12	1, 19 0		نعلاها تاريمة	4) OU +x	TR				110		ic o.o. och	ua Dui	bau.			dalana					=
	11	-	Steller	1) Daniele	+												Par.	Stamaton	al New	Lean	7
H-	-	-				/isit	http:/	www	arch	ve	s.gov for me	ore info	rmatic	on abou	ut public	ly	14	hen.		1	⊣·
1	111	120	and and	1 200	7						ords like th					-	L	- Contract		1	1
	111	_	nnma	Sen	Ι.,												1	Mayor			_ ;
10	184 14	6	2 grating	- Horage	100	m vs	500	-	40 00	7	Lapana Lagar Jolden Ulapana	99	JAN SA		Water.		1.	Canana		-	- 0
IF	7 500	7.419.50	Eran 5	Durate	100	\$ 7	22 27		Det .		Terac	9.44			Serve.		tin	Stant-E	MINEN KADE	4-	-
		(Depart	Frank 6	43 terespects	2	4 50	1218		and the	21	Toxas				20040		See	Marine al			7,
₩	USE	Gianni	sten General	o Wand		12 12			BAA 1	-	Tours	140	age to	-	Welate		34		shipping Leafy	A 100	- 6
150	TIET M	de	Though	A 1762 12.00	OF	20 00	2 200	1-11-			Terrandon		******	-	January			Havenon	A 3 Lin	4 00	- 0
10	179.00	-50.00	Street day	Atrist		8 4	(O B)	20-14	Herely	-	Temedrack	7.00	****		/harana	444	Tie	Warred		PT	-10
		-		Son		77 10		211				2.0	*****	-	"Descen-	····		Salumin	growthin -	10-	_
4	140	-	Waddie	Nane	del	70 Opr	9 8		98444	39ª	Pages Received	- 4	merce	A44	20000	· ·	153	Harmacist	Same tan		- 5
3	18 18		Zain Tr	Gen 4.		P 150	5.8 PH	0.010	19.44	144	iever	Stai	muca.		17244444						1
ă.	17.	Bur	ne out	Over	18	47 100	24 77		- Jan		Topas	2.49	ea		7444	_	74	Bertherfor	78 Pack Ko	66.40	٦,
4	1		· Sup R	Daught	41	12 hr	2 2	-	- Jul	-	Separa	- Lee	ver	ec.	Tanade						
12	Chie Itis	83J	Elaw V.	Blee Q	161	N 50	37 2m	110010	be h	74		Neme	to a Wat	w	humited &	etc.s.	144	milett d	- tendent	13.2	٦,
	1		- Ewiss	aure	11	10	37 8		Berei			620	barre		Qualar.	we	24	There's		T	Π,
	-		tidona	Sen	_	22 4					THE MAN	72.45	0.544		Lagra		4	Working S.		\perp	-
175	36/90	Pind	son Roser	to aund	107	miles	97 (1)	100	1	A.	Vindage .	1400	tand	Scalar	Ireland	Briggers	her	Canhin	Vennott	w l	7
	9.1	Lind	cary morning	wit		4 10	29 h1	1 9	l'april	101	Cuyac	ar	deama		Blaker			ingenoine	Range	Digit.	- 8
	100		- andre	2 15/25	TI	515	will be	1	100		Taylor	15.1	-ganta		Dispass		124	more !	-		-
W.	10.01		ashers to.	den		N w	1455		100	e .	TANKS.	549	ac.		5.04.00			mara a		1	- 9
31	951	These	can World?	ordinale	4.	n 52	W.W					There	Serie.	1	Mousson	ein.	100	Ywo i	The Table	4	7
SHE	- MA TA	John	an Ouris	Ordand.	15.0	P.	46 PM		N.	1	Resigna.	1 304	marks.		Samuel.		7.0	Transland	Cuerchio.	an the	
3	PERSONAL PROPERTY.	250.50	Cardina b.	Adm.	10.1	77 40						1 34	andige.		13,2444	1		North		1	1
4	200	in	Lang York to	Trepher		200 444	.b. S		See See		Sandyania	1249	14.2.		& Asserter	4.	24	Status Mer	efferida	2 w	11
ZF-	162.20	24.66	a T Sere F.	pead	K	70~	77 75	1	150	ir.	Land	Ba	dustria.	-	tention		100	Blacklini	of Frema	46 C.E.	7
3	100	-	- darie	A CONTRACT	1	BE:	14.7	1	500	4	Quilden	130	and week,	-	Toyas		100	The Court	-	+	-
12	C restra	myle	- Asered	C Nearly	114	Mike.	dia.	1 600	Date in		24404	22	MA.		marker	A)	744	machania	Buzo	ac.	
	300	Sec. 1			-	100	32 21		Post	44	respec		ua.		1.3 4-year		24	none		-	Ξ,
-	1 6	-	- Bane	r Am	4 5	2	24.	11111	多り	44	nie		Man.	1	Toyan		-	hame	-	1	- 1
1	10.0	\$1.5m.	Same	a Zon	111		2	1111	1		Table	1.015	anisa.		78.444			manu	1		1
		BCC1707	2014 1 1 1 1 1 1	J. S. S. S. L.		1			40		auxen		444		MAGGE			Arne			

Lindsay Family 1920 Census

Following the successful 1920 Census, Minnie left the Census Bureau, but not the federal government. In 1934, Minnie became the deputy collector for the Internal Revenue Service, charged with assessing oil fields in East Texas. Minnie continued to work for the Internal Revenue Service for 15 years, including time in Philadelphia where she lived apart from her husband. After a lifetime of service to her country and fellow women, Minnie Pounders Lindsay passed away at the age of 99 on May 4, 1972, in her lifelong hometown of Mount Pleasant, TX.